

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/011612 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:

A61K

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/024981

(22) International Filing Date: 30 July 2004 (30.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/491,599 31 July 2003 (31.07.2003) US

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

**WO 2005/011612 A2**

(54) Title: ALPHA 4 BETA 2 DELTA GABA-A RECEPTORS AS A STRATEGY FOR PMS AND ALCOHOLISM

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to a screening mechanism for identifying members of the general population at increased risk for alcoholism and premenstrual syndrome. The screening mechanisms may be used to measure the expression of the  $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$  GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors, in order to identify members of the general population as having an increased sensitivity to lower concentrations alcohol coupled with a decrease sensitivity to higher concentrations of alcohol, a scenario frequently found in patients suffering from alcoholism and premenstrual anxiety. Methods of screening for drugs which decrease expression of the  $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$  subunit of GABA<sub>A</sub> are also provided.